

## **Emergency Preparedness Checklist**

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. If a disaster occurs in your community, local government and disaster-relief organizations will try to assist you, but you need to be ready as well.

Being prepared and understanding what to do can reduce fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families and individuals should know what to do in the event of a disaster and should be ready to evacuate their homes, take refuge in public shelters and know how to care for their basic needs. This checklist will help you get started. It is important to discuss these ideas with you family and then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone can see it.

	Create an Em	ergen	cy Plan
	Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather and		Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency infloemation gencies.
	Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.		Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to
	Discuss what to do about power outages and injuries.		call if separated during a disaster and teach everyone those phone numbers
	Draw a floor plan of your home or business and mark two escape routes.		Pick two emergency meeting places, one near your home and one outside your neighborhood.
	Show family members how to turn off water, gas and electric.		Take a basic first aid and CPR class. Keep family records in a water and
	Post emergency phone numbers near phones.		fire-proof container. Prepare a disaster supplies kit.
	Teach children how and when to call 911.		Learn your community's evacuation routes.
			Prepare an emergency car kit.
	Escar	e Plan	

In a fire or other emergency you may need to evacuate your home on a moment's notice. You should be ready to get out fast!

Develop an escape plan by drawing a floor plan of your home. Using a black or blue pen, show the location of doors, windows, stairways and large furniture. Indicate the location of your disaster supplies kit, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, collapsible ladders, first aid kits and utility shut off points. Next, use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark a place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of a fire.

Practice makes perfect!! Make sure to practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year!